

Volunteer Opportunities

Readington Trails, Open Space and Natural Areas

March/April 2023 Trail Sessions

Three Hours or Less

It is time to get out and clear some new trails and improve some old ones in the township! If you use and enjoy your neighborhood trails or have interest in the township's natural areas please consider joining a mini-work session or volunteering as a family or group on one of the self-directed tasks listed at the end of this announcement.

To join a mini-work session, or for questions email directly to the listed crew leader for that particular session.

If for some reason we need to cancel or change a work session we will notify those who have registered. Let us know if you need directions. You do not need tools to participate, we have some, but please let the crew leader know what you are prepared to bring with you. If you can't get there at the starting time, or if you need to leave early, NO PROBLEM! Any help is appreciated.

SATURDAY MORNING SHORT WORK SESSIONS

Saturday March 18th 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM: **Session Leader: Chris John**
Reply directly to Chris at readingtontrailblazers@yahoo.com.

Where: Dobozyński Farm Park.

What we plan on doing: Clearing and repairing the tree nursery, removing cages from larger trees on the pond trail, trimming back or removing autumn olives along the trail, additional infrastructure maintenance.

Meet at: Dobozyński farm park main kiosk (straight down the driveway instead of left towards the house and barn), 44 Woods Church Road, Flemington.

Tools that would be Helpful: Heavy gloves, waterproof boots, shovels, wire cutters, clippers, loppers, hand saws, chainsaw (to cut back olive bases).

Saturday April 8th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Session Leader: Chris John
Reply directly to Chris at readingtontrailblazers@yahoo.com.

Where: Rocky Road Trail/ Indian Purchase. (Rescheduled from March 11)

What we plan on doing: Create an alternative “downhill” path to the rocky road trail. We will be hiking to the bottom of the old road and clearing up to the junction with the white trail and completing any detail work on the lower red trail. The trail work starts about a mile from the parking area.

Meet at: The far side of Horseshoe Road, near the intersection with Dreahook Road. If you need directions, contact me.

Tools that would be Helpful: chain saw, sledge hammers, thicker gloves, leaf rakes, lawn mower, string trimmer, an ax, small limb saws, tools for clearing paths.

ALSO, CONSIDER THESE OPPORTUNITIES!

Saturday, April 15, 9:00 – 12:00: Raritan Headwaters Assn. 33rd Annual Stream Cleanup. Register directly with RHA, preferably by April 1st, at <https://www.raritanheadwaters.org/> to select your location.

Saturday, April 22, 9:00 – 12: Readington Annual Tree Seedling Distribution. FREE NATIVE TREES FOR YOUR YARD! Watch for announcements.

NOTE:

Please pass this schedule to anyone you think might be interested in helping.

SELF-DIRECTED VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Winter has been hard on the trail system. Before things start to grow there is a need for pre-spring cleaning and trail corridor repairs. These are tasks that can be the focus of a service project for just a couple of hours for the family, church or service group, scout organization, or an individual.

If a Saturday morning work group is not practical, doing a small project on your own time in February and March might instead be good fit for you.

Contact John Klotz at trails@readingtontwp-nj.org or leave a voice message at **(908) 782-6452** and we can work out a mini-project that works for you and helps our neighbors enjoy our trails and natural areas.

SOME IDEAS:

Walk a Trail section and perform one or more of the following:

- Pick up tree-branch debris to facilitate walking and enable mowing.
- Trim back shrubbery protruding into the trail corridor with pruners or loppers.
- Carry trash out to the trailhead and call it in.
- Document (photograph) and report problems for attention:
 - Trees/large branches across the trail,
 - muddy spots,
 - broken infrastructure (bridges, benches, kiosks, etc),
 - ATV trespassing, etc.
 - Missing or confusing trail blazes

We need a fresh needs assessment showing the conditions for our trails.

Clear tall grasses and weeds out of the tree cages protecting the young trees planted around various trailhead parking areas.

Checking, clearing out and/or possibly repairing bluebird boxes along the trails and meadow edges.

More ideas are welcome. Please think and suggest!

Thanks for your consideration!